

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01
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DRAFTED BY ARA/PPC:LEINAUDI:JRR
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PM:PCLAPP

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O 200057Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126713

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VE

SUBJECT: ARMS RESTRAINT, THE SSOD, AND CONSALVI

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI, ON EVE OF DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH PREIDENT PEREZ, RECEIVED EINAUDI AND CLAPP MAY 19 IN NEW YORK FOR LENGTHY AND RELAXED REVIEW OF STATUS OF ARMS RESTRAINT EFFORTS. EINAUDI AND CLAPP COVERED SAMEGROUND AS WITH PEREZ APRIL 28, PLUS REVIEW OF CONCEPTUAL AND STRATEGY PAPERS, AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF HELSINKI TALKS. THEY STRESSED THE SENSITIVITY OF INFORMATION ON US-SOVIET CAT TALKS AND CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT US EFFORTS NOW "DEPENDENT" IN PART ON VENEZUELAN ACTION.

2. CONSALVI, WHO WAS ON PHONE TO PEREZ AS MEETING BEGAN,
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INDICATED THE PRESIDENT HAS KEPT HIM FULLY INFORMED AND THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR HIS RETURN TO CARACAS BEFORE THE SOD WA TO SETTLE VENEZUELAN POSITION. FURTHER SIGN OF VENEZUELAN INTEREST WAS PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, HORACIO URTEAGA, WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM CARACAS WITH COPY OF OUR ORIGINAL SPANISH OUTLINE AND SUMMARY OF NON-PAPERS.

3. CONSALVI'S COMMENTS WERE POSITIVE AND REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PEREZ. AS EXPECTED, HOWEVER, CONSALVI WAS KEENLY AWARE OF POTENTIAL PITFALLS, NOTING THAT SOVIETS (WHO, HE CLEARLY DOES NOT LIKE) ARE INTRANSIGENT AND HARD TO DEAL WITH ON CAT, THAT LATIN AMERICAN SITUATION HAS WORSENERED SINCE AYACUCHO (REVIVAL OF WHICH NOW COMPLICATED BY PERU-ECUADOR TENSIONS AND CHILE-BOLIVIAN BREAK IN RELATIONS), AND THAT BRAZIL "SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IN THINKING THAT THE WAR INDUSTRY IS GOOD FOR EXPORTS."

4. CONSALVI WAS EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE OF OUR CONSULTATIONS, NOTING THAT FOR SUPPLIERS TO ACT IN DISREGARD OF RECIPIENT INTERESTS WOULD BE "RISKY AND NAIVE", BUT THAT PROGRESS COULD BE ACHIEVED ON MANY SUBJECTS, NOT MERELY ARMS RESTRAINT, WITH TIMELY AND FLEXIBLE CONSULTATIONS.

5. CONSALVI WAS NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT WHAT SPECIFIC FORMS VENEZUELAN ACTION MIGHT TAKE. THOUGH AWARE OF THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS, HE CLEARLY WANTS TO CONSULT WITH PEREZ FIRST. WE BELIEVE HE DEFINITELY INTENDS TO "SHOWCASE" AYACUCHO IN VENEZUELA'S SSOD STATEMENT, PROBABLY CALLING FOR THE EFFORT TO BE BROADENED INTO A GENUINE REGIONAL RESTRAINT REGIME ALONG THE LINES OF THE TREATY OF TLAZOLCO FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS. VENEZUELA'S SPEECH,
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WHICH COMES ON THE OPENING DAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE US STATEMENT, WILL PROBABLY ALSO INCLUDE A POINTED APPEAL FOR SUPPLIER RESTRAINT. IN ADDITION, CONSALVI (WHO IS RECOVERING WELL FROM HIS OPERATION AND WILL IN ANY CASE RETURN TO NEW YORK MONDAY) IS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ COME TO NEW YORK TO DELIVER THE ADDRESS IN PERSON.

6. CONSALVI IS KEENLY AWARE THAT THE SSOD IS FOR EXHORTATION, NOT NEGOTIATION, AND THAT ANY REAL PROGRESS MUST COME OVER TIME IN SMALLER FORA. WE SUSPECT THAT HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY sanguine ABOUT A SEPARATE MEETING OF THE AYACUCHO SIGNATORIES AT THE SSOD, BUT IS MORE INTERESTED IN A SERIES OF POST-SSOD MINISTERIAL AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, HE HAS HIS OPTIONS OPEN AND HIS THINKING CAP ON AS HE RETURNS TO CARACAS.

7. WE AGREED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH THROUGH YOU. VANCE

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